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Message Text

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66602
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS STATE 237241

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, INFO AMMAN, BEIRUT, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, GENEVA, JIDDA, TEL AVIV, OCT 25, FROM ROME RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE UNCLAS ROME 14803

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XF, VT, SGEN
SUBJ: NEW VATICAN COMMISSION FOR ISLAM

AS A MAJOR STEP IN THE DEVELOPING DIALOGUE BETWEEN CATHOLICS AND MOSLEMS, POPE PAUL ANNOUNCED OCT. 22 THE CREATION OF AN AUTONOMOUS COMMISSION FOR RELATIONS WITH ISLAM WITHIN THE VATICAN SECRETARIAT FOR NON-CHRISTIANS. THIS CAPS A LONG SERIES OF CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO RELIGIONS WHICH BEGAN WITH THE DECLARATION "NOSTRA AETATE" OF THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL IN 1965. AS A GESTURE TOWARD IMPROVING RELATIONS, SECRETARIAT FOR NON-CHRISTIANS HAS, SINCE ITS INCEPTION, ISSUED FORMAL GOOD WISHES TO MOSLEM WORLD FOR RAMADAN. 1974 HAS SEEN GREAT INTENSIFICATION OF RELIGIOUS CONTACTS BY CATHOLIC CHURCH WITH MOSLEMS, INCLUDING THE EPOCHAL VISIT OF CARDINAL SERGIO PIGNEDOLI, PRESIDENT OF SECRETARIST FOR NON-CHISTIANS, TO SAUDI ARABIA, CHRISTIAN-ISLAMIC MEETING AT BAMAKO ORGANIZED BY THE SECRETARIAT, CARDINAL PIGNEDOLI'S VISIT TO CAIRO IN SEPTEMBER AS GUEST OF SUPREME COUNCIL FOR ISLAMIC AFFAIRS, AND THE PRESENT VISIT TO ROME OF THE GREAT ULEMAS OF SAUDI ARABIA.VOLPE UNQUOTE.
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